

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Koutonen, Tracy Sarefield, Harry Karis, Tom Starr, Mike Donnelly, Dennis DeGara, John Cordio (assoc. member) (7)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Mike O'Hara

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Community Room, Lower Level, Fitchburg Fire Headquarters, 33 North St.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice of Intent -Notice of Intent - Edgewater Homes, Inc., 0 Rindge Rd. (near McKay School) - sewer connection in Riverfront Area (cont'd from May 31st.

Applicant's engineer Paul Grasewicz asked for continuance to July. He has not received new survey with updated wetland location as yet & he needs to determine Edgewater's plan for the rest of the property. Commission agreed to continue hearing to July 26th meeting

Notice of Intent – Jaffee/Slater, driveway in buffer zone, Sheldon Rd.

Hearing opened. Applicants Anna Jaffee & Lauren Slater and Brian Hill, Land Planning, Inc. present. Brian presented plan to improve cart path in buffer zone into a driveway. No trees were cut since applicants acquired property nor will they be cut. Stormwater goes to culvert in Sheldon Road. Not enough flow in the adjacent stream to be shown on USGS map. He can submit drainage calculations.

Brian Hill: Alternatives to driveway at this location – they could not get permission from neighbors. The Wiitas didn't want give up any more frontage. Other alternative would be to avoid buffer zone, but cut deep into slope and result in more disturbance to Wetlands.

Tim's comment letter reviewed. Applicants had met Tim on site. His recommendation - keep straw wattles up, remove stockpile out of buffer, install water bars.

They will put a conservation seed mix on the area.

Anna: No plans for a horse track. She plans to do sustainable agriculture.

Public comment: Mike Couture, 528 Sheldon Rd. – Is culvert further down Sheldon Rd. able to handle additional stormwater? The culvert failed before. Has it since been replaced? Check w/ DPW - is it adequate to handle flows?

Mike Rines, 396 Sheldon Rd. – Original culvert was stone & a new culvert installed later.

Atty. VanderSalm, representing Halsteads, 455 Sheldon Rd. – Per local wetland regulations driveway is within the 20-foot 'No Disturb' zone, therefore is in violation. They can apply for waiver, but applicants would need to demonstrate that alternatives are impracticable. There could be a separate driveway on Lot 2.

Brian Hill: Existing slope is 8% - a relocated driveway would need a 10-foot cut – would affect wetlands more than the existing location.

Eleanora Leice, 455 Sheldon reviewed her 6/25/16 letter to Commission.

Tom: Wants to solve problem, wants drainage calculations submitted.
Lauren Slater took issue w/ some statements by atty. that applicant can't be trusted.

Dennis: Is issue just about moving the driveway? Atty. VanderSalm: Yes.

Anna: Barn will be on one lot, there may be possibility of an additional lot. Would be split off via an ANR plan.

Brian Hill will review & present the Commission w/ plans for alternative driveway locations.

Ralph Baker, Ashby West Rd. - Has Ph.D. in hydrology & soil science – Commission should consider a relocated driveway with a more gradual grade.

Mike Croteau – is concerned if it's a large scale development. Wants to make sure development is done right.

Mike D. – There are going to be new neighbors. Do they want to make situation work, or want to make them spend \$?

Motion made & seconded to continue hearing to July 26th meeting. Vote 7-0 in favor.
In the meantime, there is an ongoing violation

Motion made & seconded to issue an Enforcement Order to applicants to prevent construction vehicles and heavy equipment from using the cart road/driveway. Vote 7-0 in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

105 Castle Rd. - tree clearing

Evelyn Bosworth of 10 Castle Rd. in to discuss clearing an area of trees in side yard that are overhanging their house. The area had been noted as wetlands on the existing conditions plan of the Bishop & Castle Rd subdivision in late '90s, but since subdivision roads were built, the drainage patterns has been intercepted by the street drainage system, and area had dried up.

Neighbors dump leaves & brush in that area, they have put up "No Dumping" signs.

Commission is OK w/ it if Tim is OK w/ it.

Fitchburg DPW - Shea St. Drainage Improvements, Phase II

Nick Erickson of DPW-Engineering Division presented revised plan.

DPW has responded to the 16 questions raised by DEP-Central Region. Site visit by DEP 5/20 suggested re-flagging wetlands, which was done by Weston & Sampson in late May. New flagging showed a smaller area of wetlands.

Motion made & seconded to approve Amended OOC for Shea Street, Phase II provided:

- Maintenance plans
- Review and approval by Oak Hill Country Club and their engineer prior to commencement of work.

Minutes

Minutes of May meeting approved w/ correction.

Commission wants to review wetlands acct. at next meeting.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn. Vote unanimous.
Meeting adjourned: 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting: 7/26/2016